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RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 2637
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3370
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 2600
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0574
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 3332
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0204
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0669
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 7264
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 4686
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 9599
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 3763
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5707
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 7608
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 002435

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XXXX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key Stories in the Media:

Treasury Under Secretary Stuart Levey arrived in Israel on Thursday to discuss terrorist financing and Iran. Levey met with Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and senior officials in the defense

establishment and intelligence services. [source: Ha'aretz] The Jerusalem Post added that the US and Israel agree that China is the most reluctant member on the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran.

The Americans are close to approving defense aid to Israel of USD 3 billion annually for ten years. A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying that talks between Israel and the US are at a very advanced stage and that all the issues have been principally agreed upon.[source: Israel Radio]

Minister of Defense Barak was quoted as saying in private conversations that there is no chance of reaching an agreement with the Palestinians and that he does not have faith in the current Palestinian leadership. Barak admitted that he has no intention of removing road blocks as it is his responsibility to protect Israeli citizens. [source: senior diplomatic correspondent Shimon Shiffer, Yediot]

A shooting incident occurred in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem on Friday. A Palestinian grabbed an Israeli security guard's gun, shot and wounded him. Another guard gave chase, shooting and eventually killing him. Ten bystanders were wounded by bullet fragments: seven lightly and three moderately [source: Israel Radio].

Israeli mercenaries are operating alongside American and British forces in Columbia to combat drug barons and guerilla organizations. The Israelis are ex IDF officers. [source: Yediot]

Yemen President Ali Abdallah Sale has offered to mediate between Hamas and Fatah. While Hamas officials have welcomed the initiative, close associates of PA Chairman Abbas say that he is not interested. This offer comes as some Arab states, including Egypt, are pressuring Abbas to resume talks with Hamas. [source: The Jerusalem Post]

In a meeting with a US Republican Congressional delegation, Israeli President Peres said that Israel must increase trust with Syria. [source: leading media]

Palestinian Minister for Prisoner Affairs, Ashraf al-Ajarmi, was quoted as saying that if Israel reaches a formal peace agreement with the Palestinians, then Hamas will have no choice but to accept it. [source: The Jerusalem Post]

Foreign Minister Livni gave a tour of Sderot on Thursday to US Rep. Tom Lantos and Oracle CEO Larry Ellison. After Ellison heard that it would cost half a million dollars to protect the local auditorium he told Livni that she would get the money the next day. [source: The Jerusalem Post]

Mideast:

Summary:

Senior, veteran columnist Yoel Marcus wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz: "The November summit proposed by President Bush in consultation with the Quartet will give him one last chance to knock out the nerve centers of fundamentalist Islamic terror threatening the free world -- and wallop the axis of evil with a series of accords."

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post: "And for those wondering why President George W. Bush seems hell-bent on a regional meeting in the fall to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli issue, it is to bring all the US friends together under one happy roof -- to cement a new alliance of US regional buddies."

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized: "Today's threats demand that Americans, and the West generally, present a united front. Rather than exaggerating foreign policy differences, we hope that Democrats and Republicans can agree that both force and diplomacy have roles in confronting the greatest threat to global

freedom since the rise of fascism in the 1930s and the Cold War."

Block Quotes:

II. "Open Minds"

Senior, veteran columnist Yoel Marcus wrote in the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (08/10): "The November summit proposed by President Bush in consultation with the Quartet will give him one last chance to knock out the nerve centers of fundamentalist Islamic terror threatening the free world -- and wallop the axis of evil with a series of accords. The leaders of the region will have to show up with ideas and a very open mind. We will need to know in whose name Mahmoud Abbas is speaking, and how he expects to regain control over Gaza and pry it from the grip of Hamas. We will need to know how far Olmert is willing and able to go in terms of concessions based on the '67 borders. We will need to know whether Syria is capable of being a negotiating partner, and if Saudi Arabia is willing to dip its dainty foot into the pool as the patron of a comprehensive agreement, while the eyes of the fruitcake from Iran are fixed upon it. This is Bush's last chance to open a window through which we might just see a sail of peace glinting on the horizon."

II. "Happy Roof"

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (08/10): "For those looking for an explanation as to why the US is pushing so hard to support Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salaam Fayad, it is because Washington views him as a genuine friend. For those wondering why the US is pushing forward with a massive arms deal with Saudi Arabia, even though the Saudis aren't exactly doing the US's bidding in Iraq, it is because the US needs friends. And for those wondering why President George W. Bush seems hell-bent on a regional meeting in the fall to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli issue, it is to bring all the US friends together under one happy roof -- to cement a new alliance of US regional buddies."

III. ""Force and Diplomacy"

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (08/10): "Today's threats demand that Americans, and the West generally, present a united front. Rather than exaggerating foreign policy differences, we hope that Democrats and Republicans can agree that both force and diplomacy have roles in confronting the greatest threat to global freedom since the rise of fascism in the 1930s and the Cold War."

JONES